



# **Conservation Law Enforcement**

## **Standardizing the Program**

**Heidi Hirsh**

**HQ Marine Corps**

**DoD Conservation Conference 20004**

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# Conservation Law Enforcement

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## Introduction:

- The need and why we standardized program
- How we got there
- Results



# Conservation Law Enforcement

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- In 2000 a record 452 methamphetamine labs or dumps were seized in national forests
- Dept of Justice directed Dept of Navy to give poaching cases top priority to wildlife enforcement attorneys - \$525K appropriated in 2001





# Conservation Law Enforcement

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- Assessment of Marine Corps fish and game enforcement programs:
  - tenuous and subject to liabilities
- Public access to recreational hunting & fishing programs open, with no enforcement standards or guidance



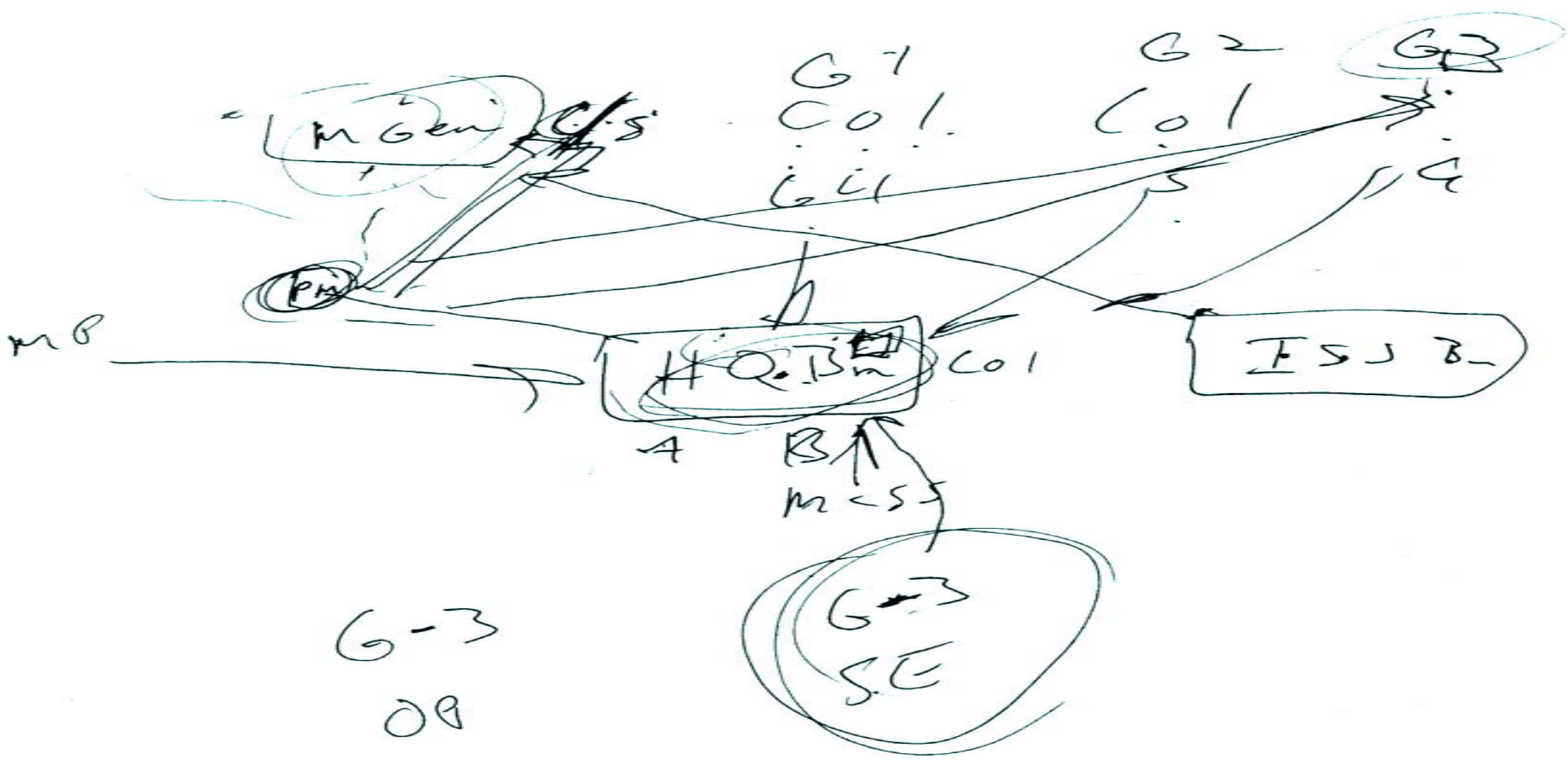


# Conservation Law Enforcement

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- Met with PMO to discuss problems and develop solutions to fish & game enforcement
- Total support from PMO
- All Marines Message to Installations Planned









# Conservation Law Enforcement

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- HQMC/PS scheduled IPT in June 2002
  - Assess all security functions not located within Security Division to determine if they should be
- Reorganization plan - PMO be responsible for fish & game enforcement
- Asked to reconsider for following reasons:







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- Marine Corps must have access to lands, waters, and air space to conduct the National Defense mission
- Protection of natural resources is imperative for sustained land use and required by many laws





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- U.S.C., Title 16, Chapter 5C, “Sikes Act Improvement Act”
  - The secretary of each military department shall ensure that sufficient numbers of professionally trained natural resource management personnel and natural resources law enforcement personnel are available and assigned responsibility to perform tasks ... including preparation of Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans.





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- CFR 32, Title 32, National Defense, July 2000
  - Enforcement of laws primarily aimed at protecting natural resources is an integral part of a natural resources program and shall be coordinated with or under the direction of the natural resources manager.



# Conservation Law Enforcement

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Enforcement of conservation laws is a  
“program”  
not just a patrol or first responder requisite



# Conservation Law Enforcement

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- Environmental Directorates are tasked with responsibility to comply with SAIA, ESA, and numerous Federal and State laws
  - But, don't have authority and tools to do the job
  - MP's do, but not manned, funded, or tasked to do so

“Realignment needed”







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- No DOD or USMC policy/guidance to implement conservation laws enforcement
- “Operating without policy/guidance exposes installation commanders to safety, liability and regulatory compliance issues”





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- HQMC Security Division and Natural Resources Section held IPT 6-7 Nov 02
- Objective - draft a MCO that establishes policy to standardize natural & cultural resource law enforcement procedures







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## Protocols to Standardize – “The What’s”

- Authority to enforce Federal laws
- Standard of firearms training?
- Firearms & ammo procurement process?
- Personnel - active duty or civilian & reporting location?
- Position description & job series?



# Conservation Law Enforcement

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- 1. Authority established by SAIA, Assimilative Crimes Act, UCMJ, and USFWS/USMC MOA**
  - USFWS use of force & firearms qualification stnds**
- 2. Federal Law Enforcement Center, Natural Resource Police Training required**
- 3. MCSC to issue firearms and ammo**
- 4. Conservation Officers to be aligned under Environmental Directorates vs. Military Police**
- 5. Conservation Law Enforcement Officers to be civilians under GS-1800 or 0400 position series**



# Conservation Law Enforcement

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- Marine Corps & USFWS MOA signed 5 June 2003
- MCO 5090.4 Conservation Law Enforcement Program effective 6 Oct 2003
- Marine Corps & Air Force to sign MOU with FLETC





# Conservation Law Enforcement

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Communication between PMO  
and Conservation Officers is paramount!



# Conservation Law Enforcement

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- Summary:
- Conservation Officers will be civilians, with FLETC Training, aligned under Environmental Directorates.
- Conservation Officers are the enforcement liaison to USFWS, working closely with PMO.
- Conservation Officers are trained natural resource professionals who perform as land stewards to ensure sustained land use for military readiness.





# Questions

